

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 011066
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /030 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:AMB CRIMMINS:WES
APPROVED BY S/S:JETHYDEN
-----019105 152035Z /40
O 152003Z JAN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 011066

FOR CHARGE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OGEN

SUBJECT: TRIBUTE TO LYLE COPMANN

1. PARA 2 CONTAINS TEXT OF A TRIBUTE TO BE READ AT THE
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LYLE. PLS FEEL FREE TO MAKE CHANGES
THAT YOU CONSIDER NECESSARY OR THAT THE NATURE OF THE

SERVICE MAY COUNSEL. IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, PLS CALL
ME IN BOSTON.

2. WE COME TOGETHER THIS AFTERNOON TO PAY OUR RESPECTS,
TO GIVE OUR LOVING TRIBUTE, TO THE MEMORY OF ONE WHO
HAS LEFT AN INDELIBLE IMPRESS ON OUR HEARTS, OUR MINDS,

AND OUR LIVES. WE MOURN LYLE, AND WE MOURN HIM DEEPLY.
YET WE CELEBRATE HIM. WE GRIEVE HIS LOSS, MADE THE MORE
ANGUISHING BY ITS UNTIMELY SUDDENNESS. YET WE RENDER
JOYOUS THANKS FOR HAVING HAD, FOR ALL TOO BRIEF A SEASON,
THE GREAT PRIVILEGE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP AND HIS LOVE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 011066

LYLE COPMANN ENRICHED US ALL. THE FORCE OF HIS UNCOMMON
COMPETENCE AS A DIPLOMAT, A PUBLICIST, AND A JOURNALIST
WAS SURPASSED ONLY BY THE GENTLE AND QUIET POWER OF HIS
CHARACTER AS A FRIEND, A HUSBAND, AND A FATHER. OVER THE
YEARS OF HIS BRILLIANT AND DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE HE GAVE

UNSPARINGLY, TO THOSE WHO WORKED WITH HIM, SUCCOR AND

STRENGTH AND ENLIGHTMENT. ENDOWED WITH A RARE GIFT OF NATURAL LEADERSHIP, HE INSPIRED AND GUIDED HIS COLLEAGUES, NOT BY FLAMBOYANCE OR EXORTATION,BUT BY REASON AND ABOVE ALL, BY SHOWING FORTH IN HIS OWN CONDUCT THE PUBLIC BUSINESS, THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, A GRATEFUL GOVERNMENT BESTOWED UPON HIM SUCCESSIVE HONORS TO MARK HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE. HIS ENTIRE CAREER, IN THE ARMY, IN JOURNALISM, AND IN PUBLIC DIPLOMACY, TESTIFIED TO HIS STRENGTH. THE PUBLIC MAN WAS ADMIRER, RESPECTED, HONORED, EMULATED ,, BUT

IT WAS THE QUALITIES OF THE PRIVATE MAN THAT TOUCHED THE CHORDS OF THE HEART, THAT EVOKED AFFECTION AND LOVE. TO LYLE WERE GIVEN, AS TO VERY FEW MEN, A GOODNESS AND A SWEETNESS OF CHARACTER AND TEMPERAMENT THAT CALLS FORTH THE BEST IN THOSE WHOSE LIVES HE INFLUNCED. A MAN OF THE HIGHEST INTEGRITY, MORAL COURAGE AND HONESTY, HE JOINED TO THOSE VIRTUES, WHICH, UNALLOYED, MIGHT MAKE A LESSER PERSON STIFF-NECKED AND SANCTIMONIOUS,BUT A GENTLENESS,A KINDINESS,A TOLERANCE, A SENSITIVITY AND A COMPASSION--IN SHORT, A CHARITY--THAT SET HIM APART. THESE QUALITIES WERE MANIFEST IN EVERYTHING HE DID AND IN ALL HIS DEAL-UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 011066

INGS WITH OTHERS. THEY WERE CONSTANTLY PRESENT IN HIS RELATIONS WITH HIS YOUNGER AND LESS ADVANTAGED ASSOCIATES, TO WHOSE WELL BEING AND PROGRESS HE WAS ESPECIALLY DEDICATED.

BUT ALL OF US WERE THE BENEFICIARIES OF LYLE'S GOOD AND GENTLE SPIRIT. AS WE CONFRONT OUR SADNESS, WE GAIN STRENGTH FROM THE SHINING MEMORIES OF THE MANY WAYS, LARGE AND SMALL, THAT THIS REMARKABLE MAN AFFECTED OUR LIVES THE BETTER. WE CHERISH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE RE THE RICHER FOR HAVING BEEN ABLE TO COUNT HIM AS FRIENDAND COLLEAGUE. AND THE SHARP EDGE OF OUR SADNESS IS SOFTENED BY THAT AWARENESS.

WE KNOW THAT THE LOSS OF LYLE STRIKES MOST KEENLY IN HIS BELOVED CATHERINE AND TOM. TO THEM WE GIVE. OUR HEART FELT SYMPATHY, A SYMPATHY DEEPENED BY O R OWN FEELINGS. TO THEM WE ALSO SAY: YOUR SOLACE LIES IN THE CERTAINTY THAT SHORT THOUGH ITS SPAN, LYLE'S LIFE WAS FULL AND REWARDING BECAUSE IN ITS COURSE HE BENEFITED AND SERVED

HIS FELLOW MAN IN COUNTLESS WAYS.

FOR CENTURIES, THEOLOGIANS AND PHILOSOPHERS HAVE
PONDERED THE REWARDS THAT AWAIT THE GOOD. OUR INDIVIDUAL
BELIEFS MAY DIFFER. BUT ALL OF US ARE CONSCIOUS THAT
OUR ENDURING MEMORIES OF A MAN TO WHOSE EXAMPLE WE
OWE SO MUCH ARE AKIN TO IMMORTALITY. SO IT IS WITH LYLE
COPMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE011066
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AMB CRIMMINS:WES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780022-0593
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780161/aaaabzwm.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 349f63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3772639
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRIBUTE TO LYLE COPMANN
TAGS: OGEN
To: BRASILIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/349f63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014